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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Preparations for III National Congress of the
CTE

PLACÉ 25X1A

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1. In accordance with the resolution passed by the II National Congress of the Confederacion de Trabajadores del Ecuador (CTE) held in Guayaquil in November 1946, the III National Congress was to be held in Cuenca in 1948. Because of the presidential elections and other factors which occurred in 1948, the III Congress was postponed until [REDACTED] the Ecuadoran "Labor Day" and the Communists' "May Day". The CTE is the principal national labor movement in Ecuador and is affiliated with the CTAL. It was originally organized and controlled for many years by the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE). The PCE lost its control in the II National Congress when the Socialists, by a narrow margin, elected Gonzalo Maldonado Jarrin, who replaced Pedro Saad, prominent Communist leader.
2. For the past year both the Socialist and Communist parties have been working towards the III Congress and making every effort to align potential delegates with their respective parties. The Communist Party has given first priority on all of its activities to the preparations of the Congress. The current struggle between the two parties sharpened in intensity during early April, and they both are confident of success. The Communists appear more assured of their success than do the Socialists. The Communists regard the regaining of control of the CTE as their prime objective and consider it as extremely important to the welfare of the Party. To date, Pedro Saad is the tentative candidate of the Communist Party for the Presidency of the CTE. Primitivo Barreto is strongly considered behind Saad because of his closer relations with the working class. However, the Party is anxious to place its strongest candidate in the field and, accordingly, has agreed upon Saad.
3. The Socialist Party, although strongly entrenched in the ranks of labor, is slightly less confident of its position vis-a-vis the Communist Party because of the loss of prestige of C. Maldonado Jarrin, who, at the moment, is not being considered for re-election as the Party's candidate. Socialist labor leaders feel that, upon his return from the United States in 1948, he appeared to favor the withdrawal of the CTE from the CTAL in order to join the new AFL Latin American labor movement. On this occasion Maldonado was accused of having sold out to the Yankee imperialists, and the fact that he returned to Ecuador with a new station wagon was used as proof of this charge. Socialist leaders are apprehensive that these charges will be brought up by the Communists and others opposed to Maldonado and would threaten their control of the CTE.

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As of this date, a successor to Maldonado has not been named by the Socialist Party, although the name of F. T. Cevallos has received favorable consideration.

4. The tentative program of the III Congress was proposed as follows:

Message from the President of CTE.
Messages from national and provincial federations.
Study of the national economic situation.
Study of the worker's living conditions in Ecuador.
Discussion of the national political situation.
Study of the international political situation.
Discussion of organization.
Report on finances.
Study of the Ecuadorian Social Security situation.
Study of the problems of the artisans.
Study of the problems of education.
Discussion of the Indian situation.
Nomination and election of a new directive for the CTE.

5. The Executive Committee of the Workers Federation of the Province of Azuay issued invitations to the following syndicates and workers organizations affiliated with the CTE to attend the III Congress in Cuenca

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Sindicato de Chofores
Sindicato de Zapateros
Sindicato de Operarios de Panificacion
Sindicato de Trabajadores de Sanidad Municipal
Sindicato de Compositores de Sombreros de Paja Toquilla.
Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Caja del Seguro Social.
Sindicato del Bar del Azuay.
Sindicato de Peluqueros.
Sindicato de Graficos.
Sindicato de Carretilleros y Cargadores.
Sindicato Artistico de Pintores.
Comite de Empresa de Obreros de la Textil Azuaya.
Comite de Empresa de la Casa Miguel Delgado.
Sociedad Union Obrera del Sigsig.
Sociedad Obrera el Porvenir del Principal.
Centro Cultural Obrero de Chordeleg.
Comuna Indigena de Zhina.
Comuna del Hato de Tapa

(The above is considered a tentative list only.)

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Comment. The government is in a difficult position with respect to the CTE Congress as it is actually incapable of meeting further drains on the treasury without a sacrifice of other needed expenditures and unpaid accounts. Aside from the monetary consideration, the government is fully cognizant of the opposition of the Socialist Party. Accordingly, it appears that the government is faced with the dilemma of refusing to subsidize the Congress, thus incurring the enmity of organized labor, or permitting the funds to be allotted for this purpose only to have the Congress turn out to be a sounding board for those who oppose the government.

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